

IN THE CLAIMS:

Amend claim 1 as follows:

1. (Once Amended) A novelty or entertainment device comprising:  
a housing in the form of a sea shell;  
a sound reproduction system mounted to said housing so as to remain hidden  
from casual visual inspection of said housing; and  
a switch mounted to said housing and operatively connected to said sound  
reproduction system for activating same after and only after a lifting of said housing to  
an ear of a user.

Amend claim 7 as follows:

7. (Once Amended) A novelty or entertainment method comprising:  
providing a housing in the form of a sea shell; and  
in response to a removal of said housing from a stationary storage position  
towards an ear of a user, reproducing a predetermined sound so that the reproduced  
sound may be perceived by the user upon and only upon an approximation of a mouth  
of said housing to the ear of the user.

Add the following new claims:

from casual visual inspection of said housing; and  
a switch mounted to said housing and operatively connected to said sound reproduction system for activating same in response to a lifting of said housing to an ear of a user, said switch includes means for selectively activating said sound reproduction system only after said housing has been placed proximate to the ear of the user.

11. The device defined in claim 10 wherein said switch includes a gravity switch.

12. The device defined in claim 10 wherein said switch is connected to a proximity detector for sensing nearness of a surface to a mouth of said housing.

13. A novelty or entertainment device comprising:  
a housing in the form of a sea shell;  
a sound reproduction system mounted to said housing so as to remain hidden from casual visual inspection of said housing; and  
a switch mounted to said housing and operatively connected to said sound reproduction system for activating same in response to a lifting of said housing to an ear of a user,  
said sound reproduction system including a memory storing a plurality of different sound bites and means for accessing different ones of said sound bites on successive activations of said sound reproduction system by said switch.

14. A novelty or entertainment method comprising:  
providing a housing in the form of a sea shell; and  
after and only after a removal of said housing from a stationary storage position  
towards an ear of a user, reproducing a predetermined sound so that the reproduced  
sound may be perceived by the user.

15. The method defined in claim 14 wherein the sound includes a verbal  
message.

16. The method defined in claim 14, further comprising automatically sensing a  
movement of said housing, the reproducing of said sound being induced upon the  
sensing of said movement.

17. A novelty or entertainment method comprising:  
providing a housing in the form of a sea shell;  
in response to a first removal of said housing from a stationary storage position  
towards an ear of a user, reproducing a first predetermined sound so that the  
reproduced sound may be perceived by the user; and  
in response to a second removal of said housing from a stationary storage  
position towards an ear of a user, reproducing a second predetermined sound so that  
the reproduced second predetermined sound may be perceived by the user, said  
second predetermined sound being substantially different from said first predetermined

sound.

18. A novelty or entertainment device comprising:

a housing in the form of a sea shell;

a sound reproduction system mounted to said housing so as to remain hidden from casual visual inspection of said housing, said sound reproduction system including a memory storing a signal corresponding to a predetermined sound substantially different from sound generated in nature upon placement of a sea shell next to an ear; and

a switch mounted to said housing and operatively connected to said sound reproduction system for activating same in response to a lifting of said housing to an ear of a user.

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**REMARKS**

Claims 1-18 are pending in the application, claims 10-17 being newly added herein.

Claims 1, 7, 10, 13, 14, 17, and 18 are the only independent claims.

*Claims Rejection - 35 U.S.C. § 103*